

RECEIVED

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

JUL - 7 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Amendment of the Commission's Rules	)	GEN Docket No. 90-314
to Establish New Personal Communications	)	ET Docket No. 92-100
Services, Narrowband PCS	)	
	)	
Implementation of Section 309(j) of the	)	PP Docket No. 93-253
Communications Act - Competitive Bidding,	)	
Narrowband PCS	)	

REPLY COMMENTS OF AMERICAN PAGING, INC.

American Paging, Inc., on behalf of itself and its subsidiaries (collectively "API"), by its attorneys, hereby submits these Reply Comments regarding the Commission's Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("Order/Further Notice") (FCC 97-1140) in the above-captioned proceeding.

The comments submitted regarding the Order/Further Notice represent a broad range of the PCS industry and generally reflect the idea that the Commission should adhere to the phased program of narrowband PCS auctions adopted in its Competitive Bidding Third Report and Order.<sup>1</sup> Along with API, most commenters oppose any expansion of nationwide or regional channel allocations at this time.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Implementation of Section 309(j) of the Communications Act - Competitive Bidding, Third Report and Order, PP Docket No. 93-253, 9 FCC Rcd 2941, 2951, ¶ 27 (1994).

<sup>2</sup> See Comments of Merlin Telecom, Inc., at 3-4; Comments of the Rural Telecommunications Group at 5-12; Comments of Motorola at 5-6; Comments of AirTouch Paging at 5-14; Comments of Ameritech Mobile Services, Inc., at 5-7; Comments of

Only the comments of Metrocall, Inc. ("Metrocall"), Arch Communications Group, Inc. ("Arch"), and Benbow PCS Ventures, Inc. ("Benbow"), which is affiliated with Arch, call for the Commission to expand national or regional channel allocations at this time.<sup>3</sup> Metrocall offers no justification for its position other than a vague statement that regional licenses "will provide licensees with the most efficient licensing area for the construction of area-wide networks."<sup>4</sup> Arch points to a supposed industry "trend toward demand for larger licensed service areas."<sup>5</sup> The existence of such a "trend" would appear to be conclusively refuted by the comments submitted in this proceeding from a wide range of industry participants, nearly all of whom reject the call for regional and national licensing.<sup>6</sup> Benbow is similarly unsuccessful in advancing any rationale for regional licensing.

Regarding allocation of the remaining 1 MHz of narrowband PCS spectrum, API stated in its comments that the Commission should allow the industry to evaluate its spectrum needs before determining the channelization and service area definitions for the reserve spectrum.<sup>7</sup> The vast majority of commenters support this position. The Commission should wait until

---

CONXUS Communications, Inc., at 7-11; Comments of Paging Network, Inc., at 16-19; Comments of Celpage, Inc., at 5-7; Comments of PageMart, Inc., at 2-3; Comments of Morgan Stanley Partnerships at 3; Comments of Personal Communications Industry Ass'n ("PCIA") at 5-8.

<sup>3</sup> See Comments of Metrocall at 5-6; Comments of Arch at 7-9; Comments of Benbow at 3-4.

<sup>4</sup> Comments of Metrocall at 6.

<sup>5</sup> See Comments of Arch at 8.

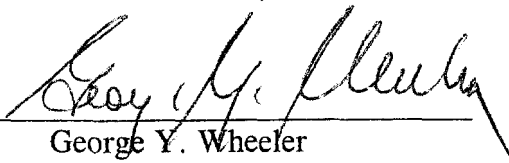
<sup>6</sup> See supra note 2.

<sup>7</sup> See Comments of API at 5.

PCIA has conducted its proposed review of industry spectrum needs before channelizing the reserve spectrum.<sup>8</sup>

Respectfully submitted,

AMERICAN PAGING, INC.

By   
George Y. Wheeler  
R. Edward Price

Koteen & Naftalin, L.L.P.  
1150 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 467-5700

Its Attorneys

July 7, 1997

---

<sup>8</sup> See Comments of Motorola, Inc., at 7; Comments of AirTouch Paging at 14-20; Comments of Ameritech Mobile Services, Inc., at 7; Comments of CONXUS Communications, Inc., at 15-17; Comments of Paging Network, Inc., at 9-12; Comments of Celpage, Inc., at 7-9; Comments of PageMart, Inc., at 4-6; Comments of Morgan Stanley Partnerships at 3-4; Comments of PCIA at 8-11; Comments of Metrocall, Inc., at 6-7; Comments of Benbow PCS Ventures, Inc., at 5-8; Comments of Arch Communications at 9-10.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Judy Norris, a legal secretary in the firm of Koteen & Naftalin, L.L.P., hereby certify that on the 7th day of July, 1997, copies of the foregoing Reply Comments were deposited in the U.S. mail, postage prepaid, addressed to:

Carl W. Northrop  
E. Ashton Johnston  
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky &  
Walker LLP  
1299 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Tenth Floor  
Washington, DC 20004  
Counsel for AirTouch Paging

Dennis L. Meyers, Vice Pres.  
and General Counsel  
Ameritech Cellular Services  
2000 West Ameritech Center Drive  
Location 3H78  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

John A. Prendergast  
Blooston, Mordkofsky, Jackson & Dickens  
2120 L Street, N.W. Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20018  
Counsel for Ameritech Cellular Services

Kathryn A. Zachem  
Kenneth D. Patrich  
John B. Branscome  
Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer & Quinn  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W. Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20006  
Counsel for Arch Communications Group,  
Inc.

David M. Wilson  
Young, Vogl, Harlick & Wilson  
425 California Street, Suite 2500  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Counsel for Benbow PCS Ventures, Inc.

Frederick M. Joyce  
Christine McLaughlin  
Joyce & Jacobs  
1019-19th Street, N.W.  
Fourteenth Floor - PH2  
Washington, DC 20036  
Counsel of Celpage, Inc.

Gerald S. McGowan  
Terry J. Romine  
Lukas McGowan Nace & Gutierrez  
1111 Nineteenth Street, N.W. Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20036  
Counsel for Conxus Communications

Caressa D. Bennet  
Anne E. Linton  
Bennet & Bennet, PLLC  
1019-19th Street, N.W.  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036  
Counsel for Merlin Telecom, Inc.

Frederick M. Joyce  
Christine McLaughlin  
Joyce & Jacobs  
1019-19th Street, N.W.  
Fourteenth Floor - PH2  
Washington, DC 20036  
Counsel for Metrocall, Inc.


Richard C. Barth  
Director of Telecommunications Strategy  
and Policy  
Motorola, Inc.  
1350 Eye Street, N.W. Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20005

Monica A. Leimone  
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison  
1615 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
Counsel for PageMart, Inc.

Judith St. Ledger-Roty  
Edward A. Yorkgitis, Jr.  
Paul G. Madison  
Kelley Drye & Warren, LLP  
1200-19th Street, N.W.  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036  
Counsel for Paging Network, Inc.

Robert L. Hoggarth  
Senior Vice President  
Personal Communications Industry  
Association  
500 Montgomery Street, Suite 700  
Alexandria, VA 22314-1561

Caressa D. Bennet  
Anne E. Linton  
Bennet & Bennet, PLLC  
1019-19th Street, N.W.  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036  
Counsel for Rural Telecommunications  
Group

  
Judy Norris